

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/18968

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01L 21/22, 21/38
US CL : 438/565

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 438/565, 507, 508, 510, 511, 569

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST 2.1.4, IEEE XPLOR

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/0157787 A1 (MURTHY et al) 21 August 2003 (21.08.2003), paragraphs [0039] and [0040].	19-22
X	US 5,532,183 (SUGAWARA) 2 July 1996 (2.07.1996), column 1, lines 55-60; column 3, lines 22-28; column 3, lines 41-57.	19-22
A	US 5,198,387 (TANG) 30 March 1993 (30.03.1993).	1-25
A	US 5,714,415 (OGURO) 3 February 1998 (3.02.1998).	1-25
A	US 6,410,434 (MANI) 25 June 2002 (25.06.2002).	1-25
A	US 6,723,621 B1 (CARDONE et al) 20 April 2004 (20.04.2004).	1-25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"B"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
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"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 November 2004 (12.11.2004)

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